Vol. III. Numb. 62.

# THE OBSERVATOR.

*The Charge againſt the* Obſervator. *His Vindication.*

From **Saturday** October the 21ſt, to **Tueſday** October the 24th, 1704.

*Country-m.* WELL, now, Maſter *Obſervator*, will you let me know a little of what you are to be Try'd for; you have given me three Articles, ſome time ſince, let me have the reſt now if you pleaſe.

*Obſ.* Another Article is Numb. 11. Coll. 2.

*At the ſame Time we conſider the* French *Kings Succeſs in his Bribery and Corruption, we ought to lament the ſad State of our own Country, which affords ſo many Inſtances of Treachery: If we may Judge by our National Miſcarriages, perhaps no Nation in* Europe *has felt the Influence of* French *Gold more than* England; *and worthy is it our greateſt Lamentation, that our Dear Country ſhould be thus weaken'd by Men of Mercenary Principles, when Countries Inferiour to us in Strength and Riches, are ſecured from Attempts of this Nature, only by the Fidelity of their People. What is the Reaſon that* French *Gold has not affected* Holland *as well as* England; *but that their Miniſtry is ſuch as is intirely in the Intereſt of their Country, and altogether Incorruptable? They Prefer Men that are knowing in their Poſts, and are active in Buſineſs; when in* England *we find out Offices for Men, not Men for Offices; and a Title of Honour gives a Man a Title to a great Employment, he is altogether Ignorant of. By this, and by preferring of Men by Intereſt and Favour, has the Exciſe, the Cuſtoms, and other Branches of the Revenue intolerably ſunk; and by this means has the Navy of* England, *our chief Support, been hitherto perfectly Bewitch'd; and can* Lewis *ſpend his Money better than in getting Men into Offices in* England, *who are either Falſe or Ignorant in the Buſineſs, or are his Friends?*

*Country-m.* Well, Sir, what have you to ſay in your own Defence?

*Obſ.* Any Man of Conſcience muſt believe that the Author of this Paragraph did not look down on this preſent Reign, but backward to former Reigns: For this Paper was Publiſhed on the 30th of *May*, 1702. At which time the Queen had not been full two Months in Poſſeſſion of the Crown: Should I look into the Antient Archives of the Kingdom, and the Mouldy Rolls of Antiquity, I could produce Inſtances enough how *England* has been Bought and Sold with *French* Money: But to keep things in View, was *Dunkirk* Surrender'd for Nothing? Did you never hear of ſuch a Woman as the Dutcheſs of *Portſmouth?* Was *Talmarſh* Kill'd by Piſtoles or Muskets? Had we not ſo many *French* Piſtoles at one time in *England*, that they went by the Name of *Tallards?* Have we always had Men that have been Proof againſt Gold?

If it be Falſe that the Branches of the Revenue have Sunk, and the Navy has been Impair'd, by the Ignorance of thoſe Employ'd therein, I think the *Obſervator*, ought to be heard to the Point, and not Proſecuted for his Diſcovery.

But to come juſt to the Time preſent; ſince Her Majeſties Happy Acceſſion to the Throne, ſome Perſons that are no Friends, you may be ſure, to the Government, have carried on a conſtant Trade with *France*; about 40 Sail of Shipping have been employ'd in Exporting of Proviſions and Lead, Ammunitions of War, and in Lieu thereof have Imported *French* Wines, and other Commodities: Now, did not theſe People do this by the Influence of *French* Gold? And could the Count *de Tholouſe* have got to Sea the laſt Summer without this Aſſiſtance?

*Country-m.* Theſe were Damn'd Rogues to ſupply our Enemies with Shot to Shoot our Honeſt Sailors, when our Sailors wanted Shot to Shoot their Enemies. But go on.

I had got Notice of this Trade very Early, but for a long time could not come at the Diſcovery. At length, by Accident, I accompliſhed my Deſign, and when I had gotten Evidence, and a Liſt of the Ships Trading to *France*, with their Maſters Names, I laid the ſame before the Government. Soon after this the Gentleman that gave me the beſt Information of this Helliſh Trade, diſcovered a Ship in the River, that he had ſeen not long before in *France*, and had brought thither Proviſions, *&c.* and was returned to the Port of *London*, Laden with *French* Wines, and other Commodities: Upon Notice hereof to the Government, we got the Ship Seized, and ſome Perſons that were in her, the Pretended Maſter of the Ship was Son to a certain Peer, ſome time ſince Deceaſed. Here's the Copy of the *French* Kings Paſs, or Letter of Safe Conduct to that Ship, in my Hand, and the Original is in *Doctors-Commons.*

*Country-m.* Well, and what have they done in the Buſineſs?

*Obſ.* The Ship is Condemn'd, but after ſome Months Attendance on the Gentry at *Doctors-Commons*, we cannot get the Condemnation of the Cargo; ſometimes one is Sick, and ſometimes another; ſo that a thing of the greateſt Concern to Her Majeſty and Government, is put off with perpetual Delays, Day after Day, Week after Week: This Day the Trial is Ordered again, if the Gentry don't pleaſe to fall Sick t'other Bout.

Now I don't ſay that Dr. *Schombergh*, as the *Dutch-man* ſaid, is under the Influence of *French* Money; but of this I am ſure, that had the Buſineſs been Diſpatch'd, as we were promiſed, in 14 Days, and the Commander who gave the Information had been ſent into the Herring-Pond, he would by this Time have brought in moſt of thoſe Traders.

*Country-m.* Rope take you, you'll never leave this Trick of Informing the Government of thoſe that would Ruin it: It will be your Ruin at laſt. A Vigorous Proſecution always follows upon it. Soon after you had Detected the

vaſt

vaſt Numbers of *Papiſts* and *Popiſh* Prieſts, come from beyond Sea, I remember you were Indicted at the *Old-Baily* for Writing againſt the *Papiſts*, I can give you more Inſtances. Be a Rogue and let your Country be Ruin'd, you ſee you don't get a good Word for ſaving it.

*Obſ.* 'Tis no matter I muſt do my Duty, and am ready to ſuffer for my Country; if I get good Words from ſome, I get bad Words from others; there is no certainty in Humane Affairs. At *Doctors-Commons* we are call'd Informing Rogues, but *England* may be the better for ſuch Informations, and if ſo I am contented; I won't part with the Title of an *Engliſhman*.

*Country-m.* Well, this Article is over, and if the *French* Gold has had no Influence in *England*, then the Enemies of our Country have been ſo Generous as to ſerve a *French* Intereſt for nothing. ——But, are there any more Articles?

*Obſ.* The other two, becauſe they relate to the ſame thing, I ſhall Read you together, and Remark on both of them at once, the one is Num. 19. Col. 3. and is this,

*Take one time with another, the Miſ-managements of the Navy, have been a greater Tax on the Merchants, than the Duties raiſed by Parliament. We never had a better Navy; but the Wiſdom of the Managers thereof, is like a bottomleſs Pit, paſt finding out.*

The other is Num. 20. Col. 2. and ſpeaks thus.

*What avails it a Man of Learing and Parts to qualifie himſelf for the Service of his Country on the Ocean? If he has Knowledge enough to adviſe* Neptune *himſelf, if he has no Intereſt he ſhall have no Preferment. How much does it look to our Nations diſadvantage to have Men in Eminent Stations in the Navy who have not ſo much as an Idea, a Notion, a Thought of Naval Affairs? To have Men Super-intend the Building of our Floating Caſtles, who know not the Nature of any one part of the Management? To have Men employed in the Victualling, who qualifie themſelves for that Poſt, by Learning to Write their Names; which is indeed a Poſt for a Philoſopher bred to the Sea.*

*Country-m.* Ay, this you get by dabbling in Salt Water, I always told you they would put you in the *Powdering-Tub*, they'll make a *Pickle-Herring* of you at laſt.

*Obſ.* Their Judgment in *Pickling* appear'd before our Sailors Noble Friends, the *Houſe of Lords*, but the laſt Seſſions of Parliament; and I make no Queſtion, but I ſhall have Gentlemen on my Jury, that are Competent Judges of the Truth of theſe two Articles, and therefore I need not ſay much on this Head. The chief Matter of Fact has been proved before the Lords, and the Lords have Repreſented it to the Queen.

But, as I hinted before, if I have charged any of the Officers Employ'd in the Navy, according to *Juſtice* and *Equity*, I ought to be heard againſt them, before their Superiours; but if Men are Proſecuted for making Complaints before they are heard, this is a way to Diſcourage Complainers and Encourage ſuch as abuſe the Nation.

Now with humble Submiſſion to thoſe that have better Eyes than my ſelf, (and I think I ought to ſee as far into my own Buſineſs as another Man) the Cauſe of particular Perſons, is made the Cauſe of the Government againſt me in the Information. If particular Perſons are Reflected upon, I preſume that is no Reflection on the Government. If Her Majeſty has no *Knaves* or *Fools* Employ'd in her Service, ſhe has much better Luck than any of her Predeceſſors; Vermin will ſtick to the Faireſt Flowers; and the beſt of Governments are often infected with the worſt Men. Nor is it a Crime for the meaneſt Subject to cry out, when he ſees an Officers Hand in the Pocket of the *Publick*; *The Officers of the Navy wears the Nations Livery*, and I hope thoſe who pay Taxes may take Notice how they are ſpent.

*Country-m.* Aye, but your Libellers ſay, when you Reflect on the Management of the Navy, that you Reflect on His Royal Highneſs.

*Obſ.* Juſt as I do on the Queen, when I reflect on ſuch as would Ruin her; the Prince manages by a Council, and I think thoſe reflect on His Royal Highneſs, that would make him a *Screen* to the Evil Men that are Employ'd under him.

*Country-m.* Well, but Maſter *Obſervator*, you are not allowed the Priviledge of being heard to what is alledged againſt you as to the Truth of matter of Fact. For I think if you prove theſe things you ought to be aquited of the *Information*.

*Obſ.* Many of the things alledged againſt me, *I* have already proved, and are upon *Record*; The Lords Journals may be ſearched and the Admiralty Books; I Queſtion much whether the Extraordinary Buſineſs of the Term will allow my Lord Chief Juſtice Time to hear my Juſtification of the particulars in the Charge, *I* have ſome hundreds of Witneſſes to Examine as to the *Matter of Fact*, and the *Information* is ſo laid, that it would be the longeſt Trial that ever was known, but *I* do not in the leaſt Queſtion the Juſtice of the *Court*, ſo *I* ſhall contrive all the ways poſſible to make the Trial as eaſie as may be.

It now grows late, and we are to diſcourſe further to Morrow, and therefore we'll go to Bed with a Query or two.

1. How comes it to paſs, that I am more a Criminal in this Reign, for Complaining of the Abuſes of the Navy, than I was in the laſt Reign, when I offered the ſame Complaints?

2. Why thoſe Gentlemen who encourag'd me in thoſe Complaints then, ſhould be my Enemies for offering Complaints of the ſame Nature now?

3. Whether Abuſes are not alike Deſtruſtive to the *Engliſh* Nation in all Reigns?

4. And whether any of the Gentlemen aforeſaid, do in their Conſciences believe me, to be that Wicked, Falſe, and Traiterous Perſon, as is mentioned in the Information.

## *Advertiſements.*

**A Certificate concerning *Stoughton's* Cordial Elixir.**

THIS is to Certifie, that having uſed Mr. *Stoughtons* Cordial Elixir, found always great Benefit and Succeſs from it, and do affirm that when my Ship lay at *Jamaica*, a while ago, ſix or ſeven of my Men fell Ill with a great ſtoppage at the Stomach, high Feaver, immediatly Light Headed, together with a Vomitting and Looſeneſs, and moſt Died in 24 Hours; preſently after, ſix or ſeven more fell Ill in the ſame manner, and then I Plyed them with the ſaid Elixir, and with the Bleſſing of God, every one were ſpeedily Cured, and all the Men acknowledge they owe their Lives to that Medicine, and I am of Opinion it is of great uſe to be taken to Sea, it was in mighty Eſteem at *Jamaica* when I came away, and was Sold for 2 *s.* 6 *d.* a Bottle. ——This is *Verbatim*. Signed *Matthew Beesly*, Capt. of the *Bonadventure* Auguſt 17. 1704.

I have more Certificates by me to the ſame effect, too long to Inſert here, but any Body may ſee them. The ſaid Captain hath taken a quantity with him, and ſome others lately, and I do believe it to be the beſt one Medicine in *England*, to carry to Sea; for thoſe Scorbutick Feavers, Fluxes, Gripes, *&c.* proceeds from Infectious Air, Weakneſs of Stomach and Bowels, *&c.* againſt which this is a moſt Noble Remedy, to be taken in a a Dram of Brandy or Punch, as a Preſervative or Curative, it will keep good many Years, and alter not in any Climat; if it was once tryed, few would venture to Sea without it.

**THE *Athenian Spy*:** Diſcovering the Secret Letters, which were ſent to the *Athenian Society*, by the moſt Ingenious Ladies of the Three Kingdoms, relating to the *Management of their* Affections with their Anſwers; being a Curious Syſtem of *Love* Cales, Platonick and Natural: Containing the *Principles of* Love, according to Plato's Idea: And *The way of a Man with a Maid*. Or, The *Whole Art of* Amour, in all its *Intrigues* and *Amuſements*, till its Conſummation in Enjoyment; with private Inſtructions to the Bride and Bridegroom, and a Modeſt Eſſay on due Benevolence, or the ſeaſonable uſe of the Marriage Bed. An Invention for the helping off of old Maids, and a project of an Office for the Unmarrying ſuch as are unequally Yoaked. With other Curious particulars, and great Variety of Poems, being an intire Collection of the *Love Secrets*, ſent to the *Athenian Society* Price 2 *s.* 6 *d.* Printed for *R. Halſey*, and are to be Sold at the *Golden Pyramids* in the *Old Jury*, next the *Poultry*.

A True and Exact Account of many great Abuſes Committed in the Victualling Her Majeſties *Navy*, From *February* 1703, to *July* 1703. As Appears by the Informations and Depoſitions of ſeveral Witneſſes, with the Proceedings thereupon, both at the *Admiralty Office*, *Hicks's-Hall*, and Elſewhere. *For the Information of the Parliament and Publick*. Price 6 *d.*

*London*, Printed and Sold by *J. How*, at the *Seven-Stars*, in *Talbot-Court*, in *Grace-Church-Street*, 1704.